

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5 and 7-10 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 2, 4-13, and 15-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 11 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 2 and 11.

Claim Amendments

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3 and claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 14. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. In view of these amendments, claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The claims have been amended in view of the antecedent basis errors noted. Also, Applicant respectfully notes that “equilibrium positions” as used in claim 10 means “at a position wherein the spring forces of the springs are at equilibrium.” See, for example, paragraph 0029 of the present specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

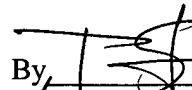
Claims 2, 6-13, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Grossman in view of Japan Patent No. 2595262 (hereinafter "the '262 Patent"). Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended by this reply to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 3 and 14 respectively. Thus, independent claims 1 and 11, as amended, are patentable Grossman and the '262 Patent. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03115/030001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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